

**Press Release****Monday, October 5, 2015****SECOND NATURE AND UNIVERSITIES TAKE BOLD STEPS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE**

ATLANTA (October 5) \_\_\_ The nation's largest university-based climate alliance announced a dramatic expansion in its efforts to mitigate and prepare for climate change among its network of over 650 colleges and universities.

Boston-based Second Nature, a 22-year-old umbrella organization of universities stretching from California to Maine, has expanded the "American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment" (ACUPCC) beyond carbon reduction to now include climate resilience.

A vanguard of 45 university presidents signed this new, integrated Climate Commitment during a ceremony in which Second Nature unveiled a new branding for the Commitments and website that will significantly enhance and streamline the Network's visibility. Second Nature President Tim Carter, who took over a year ago in part to strategically rethink what was possible for the network, said that it was "not only good but necessary" for the higher education community to lead on a "bold, innovative" initiative that is so critical to future generations.

"We have worked closely with our presidential leadership to ensure this expansion would empower the network to continue to push what is possible in climate leadership" Carter said. "College and University leaders hold a special place in our society, and they are in a unique position to lead on climate issues."

Paul Ferguson, President of Ball State University, said during the event "As one of the original signatories of the ACUPCC, Ball State University is pleased to join with our colleagues across the nation to make a new commitment to this holistic approach to climate leadership. With intentional cost-effective and energy-savings strategies to make our campuses sustainable, we can transcend silos and achieve a unified approach across our operations and divisions. To that end we ultimately provide improved quality of life and impact for our students, their families and our communities."

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Wim Wiewel, President of Portland State University, who was also present, said "Our institutions continue to be committed to carbon reduction, but we recognize that the effects of climate change are with us now. Individually and collectively, we have to increase our resilience in dealing with the effects of climate change, whether it's drought, fires, storms, or other events."

The institutions that are part of the current Climate Leadership Network range from the smallest to the largest, including schools with enrollment of a few hundred, to entire systems with several hundred thousand students. To join the Climate Leadership Network, the president or chancellor of a college or university is required to sign one of the three Climate Leadership Commitments: Carbon, Resilience, or Climate. The Climate Commitment, the most holistic climate leadership commitment to date, combines the Carbon and Resilience Commitments.

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**The complete list of the new integrated Climate Commitment signatories to date:**

Agnes Scott College	Elizabeth	Kiss	President
Arizona State University	Michael	Crow	President
Ball State University	Paul	Ferguson	President
Bennington College	Mariko	Silver	President
Bowie State University	Mickey	Burnim	President
Bristol Community College	John	Sbrega	President
California State University, Chico	Paul	Zingg	President
California State University, Northridge	Dianne	Harrison	President
Central Community College	Greg	Smith	President
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	William	Guerriero	Interim President
Chatham University	Esther	Barazzone	President
Coe College	David	McInally	President
College of Lake County	Jerry	Weber	President
College of Saint Benedict	Mary	Hinton	President
Eastern Connecticut State University	Elsa	Núñez	President
Eastfield College	Jean	Conway	President

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Emory & Henry College	Jake	Schrum	President
Frostburg State University	Thomas	Bowling	Interim President
Gateway Technical College	Bryan	Albrecht	President
George Washington University	Steven	Knapp	President
Goddard College	Robert	Kenny	Interim President
Green Mountain College	Paul	Fonteyn	President
Hampshire College	Jonathan	Lash	President
Lane Community College	Mary	Spilde	President
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	John	Anderson	President
Mount Wachusett Community College	Daniel	Asquino	President
Mt. Hood Community College	Debra	Derr	President
Northland College	Michael	Miller	President
Portland State University	Wim	Wiewel	President
Presidio Graduate School	William	Shutkin	President
Rochester Institute of Technology	William	Destler	President
Santa Fe Community College	Randy	Grissom	President
Southern Connecticut State University	Mary	Papazian	President
SUNY Sullivan	Karin	Hilgersom	President
University of Arizona	Ann	Hart	President
University of California, Los Angeles	Gene	Block	Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago	Michael	Amiridis	Chancellor
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	Freeman	Hrabowski III	President
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science	Donald	Boesch	President
University of Massachusetts Boston	J. Keith	Motley	Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	Divina	Grossman	Chancellor
University of Minnesota, Morris	Jacqueline	Johnson	Chancellor
University of New Hampshire	Mark	Huddleston	President
Wells College	Jonathan	Gibraltar	President
Western Michigan University	John	Dunn	President

To see a complete list of all the current signatories of the Carbon Commitment (formerly the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment), see:  
[secondnature.org/who-we-are/network/](https://secondnature.org/who-we-are/network/)

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